



IDAHO COUNCIL ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

2008 Legislative Update

"A system of care is a parent-driven network of schools, advocacy organizations, public and private agencies working together to meet the needs of families and children. Children's Mental Health Councils are a part of this network that help identify and develop community resources for families and provide education about mental health."

Systems of Care Federal Grant

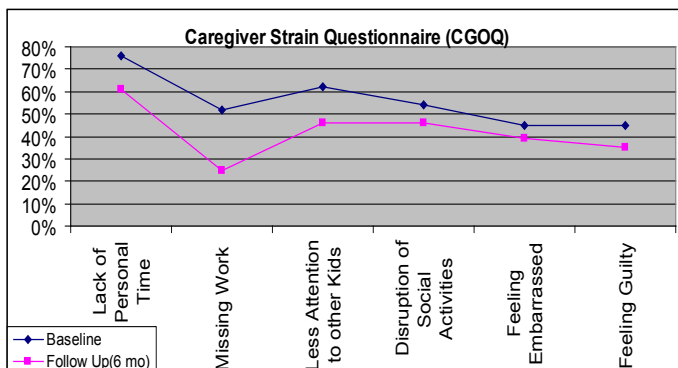
The Department of Health and Welfare is in the final year of a six (6) year federal grant for the development of the infrastructure for a System of Care for children with serious emotional disturbance and their families. The goals for the System of Care grant were closely aligned with the requirements of the Jeff D lawsuit.

Through the implementation of the grant, Idaho has realized a number of accomplishments.

- National recognition of anti-stigma activities
- Numerous trainings on effective services
- Increased parental involvement
- Implementation of wrap around
- Increased communication and coordination of services between agencies
- Over 30 community councils have been established.

The challenge of the post-grant period will be to continue to build on these achievements. The following table highlights some data from the national evaluation that Idaho participates in as required by the grant.

Results from Idaho's National Evaluation Data



Additionally, at least 70% of Idaho families involved in the national evaluation stated that they agreed or strongly agreed to the following statement, "Overall I am satisfied with the services my child received." Families particularly agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied in the areas of:

- Being treated with respect
- Staff respected my beliefs
- Receiving the help we wanted
- Availability and access to help
- Participation in services

Custody Not Always Required

The Children's Mental Health Services Act allows a parent to access services for a child with a serious emotional disturbance without utilizing a court process to transfer custody to the state Department of Health and Welfare.

Prior to the Children's Mental Health Services Act, a transfer of custody was required through a court commitment process in order to have a child placed in the state hospital or residential care facility. The Act allows the parents and the Department to enter into a voluntary placement agreement when a child needs an intensive level of care such as treatment foster care or residential care.

Additionally, parents can voluntarily sign a child into a psychiatric hospital. The Act does have provisions for involuntary court proceedings when parents refuse or are unable to provide the necessary care for a child with serious emotional disturbance who is a danger to self or others.

Federation Update

The Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (IFFCMH) is a family advocacy group that partners in the Idaho system of care, with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, to help families of youth with mental health needs find resources and support.

The Federation served more than 500 families in 2007. The Federation also tracks the number of parents serving on local and regional councils, reporting 145 for 2007.

In the hopes of inspiring youth membership in councils, the Federation drafted a youth involvement proposal, discussed and revised by regional councils and sent to the Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health (ICCMH). The proposal creates policy for local and regional councils to compensate youth for attendance to council meetings with community service points and extra credit points for school. The proposal is in its final approval stage.

What is Wraparound?

Wraparound is a planning process to help families with children with severe emotional and behavioral problems function more effectively in their homes and community. It is a family-centered, community oriented, culturally competent and strength-based planning process that includes both natural and formal supports. The plan is tailored to meet the needs of the family in order to best achieve a positive set of measurable outcomes.

How Does It Work?

Wraparound is a process based upon a set of values, beliefs and principles. A wraparound specialist helps the

family select a team with natural supports such as family members, friends, clergy, etc., and formal supports such as counselors, service providers, therapists, etc. to help create a unique plan based upon the needs and strengths of the family. All planning occurs with the child and family present. In Wraparound, family voice is CHOICE!

Wraparound is an evidence-based practice that has been effective in System of Care communities nationwide. Studies have shown that families who create their own plans are 90% successful. The Department of Health and Welfare provides 8 Wraparound Specialists and is developing a pilot project to incorporate contracted wraparound facilitators in Region V.

Jeff D Update

The 27-year old Jeff D lawsuit has been closed by the Federal Court. This class action lawsuit concerning children's mental health services was dismissed by Judge Winmill November 1, 2007. The judge found the state had fulfilled its obligation and made significant efforts to comply with the court decrees. Judge Winmill went on to state, in his decision, "the court is satisfied with

the defendant's efforts and concludes that nothing more can be asked of them." Additionally, the court granted a partial award of attorney's fees to the plaintiffs.

The plaintiff's attorneys have filed a notice of appeal regarding the court rulings. Appeal hearings before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals have not yet been scheduled.

Impacts:

There have been many changes in the children's mental health program during the last 27 years. A separate adolescent unit was established at State Hospital South, which is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

The Departments of Juvenile Corrections and Health and Welfare use the same definition of serious emotional disturbance to identify youth. Both Departments have data systems to track the services youth receive. Medicaid and the Children's Mental Health Program also utilize

data systems to track usage and expenditures on mental health services to youth. There have been dramatic increases in services since 2002. (*See charts below*)

The Idaho Council on Children's Mental Health and the numerous regional and local councils bring together stakeholders to work on coordination of services, policy issues, and resource development at the state and local levels.

DHW convened a workgroup of juvenile justice stakeholders, parents, educators, advocates, providers, and state hospital and children's mental health program staff to work on finding solutions for youth with mental health

needs involved in the juvenile justice system. This workgroup developed the concept that led to a \$700,000 appropriation to DJC for mental health services to youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

It also developed and implemented through a DHW contract a pilot project to determine the effectiveness and usefulness of a clinician in a juvenile detention center. This has now led to an effort funded by DJC to contract for clinicians in all 12 juvenile detention centers in Idaho.

These collaborative efforts are leading to improved access to and services for youth throughout the state.

Health and Welfare
CMH 10-Core Services

